

# OREGON CROP WEATHER



OREGON  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE

Volume: 03-04  
Released: April 19, 2004  
Week Ending: April 18, 2004

Phone: 503 326-2131  
Toll Free: 1-800-338-2157  
E-Mail: [nass-or@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-or@nass.usda.gov)

National website at: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/pubs.htm>  
Oregon website at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/or>

**Weather:** Temperatures became much cooler across the State, and precipitation picked up in a significant way, helping maintain soil moisture levels. Low temperatures generally fell in the thirties and reached the lower and mid-twenties in some eastern Oregon weather stations. High temperatures were in the fifties along the coast, the sixties in the Willamette Valley, and mostly in the seventies elsewhere. Counties in critical need of moisture, such as Morrow and Umatilla, welcomed the increased rainfall. Some hail and strong winds were noted in central Oregon. Scattered snow showers occurred early in the week in the Klamath Basin. Josephine County recorded some blustery wind conditions. The Dalles again recorded the highest number of growing degree days (Base 50F) for the week, with 27 GDD.

**Field Crops:** Spring planting and other fieldwork continued last week. Hail was reported in several counties in the central part of the State. Damage to crops, however, was minimal. Herbicide application to grain and grass crops continued. Sugarbeet planting was completed in Malheur County. In Marion County, there were a few reports of powdery mildew showing up in tall fescue fields. Washington County winter wheat was in the early boot stage.

**Vegetables:** Cool, damp conditions stopped or slowed farming activity across much of the State. In the Willamette Valley, vegetable crops were being planted as quickly as possible and rhubarb harvest started. Jackson and Josephine counties reported truck gardeners started preparing fields for vegetable crops. Malheur County reported onion planting was mostly complete and potato planting was in full swing.

**Livestock, Range and Pasture:** Branding and turnout were well underway across the State. Grazing conditions and pasture growth in many eastern Oregon areas benefitted from recent rain showers. Good spring weather in Clackamas County led to a good calving season, and livestock remained in good condition there. In Harney County, however, calving season has been generally warm and dry. Some rangeland grass in Sherman County started to turn brown about a month ahead of schedule. Some hay feeding in Union County was underway, while other ranchers continued to utilize spring grasses there.

**Fruit and Nuts:** Cool and damp conditions slowed the recent rapid fruit and nut growth. The rainy weather prevented many from spraying their fruit and nut trees. Willamette Valley apples were in full bloom, pears were past bloom, strawberries and blueberries were in bloom, and grape vines were leafing out. Southern coast blueberry bloom continued. Many Stevens variety cranberry beds were in hook stage. Petal fall sprays were applied to Jackson County pears which were about 16 days ahead of schedule. Jackson County blueberries should have a bumper crop if the cold temperatures did not affect them.

**Nurseries and Greenhouses:** Nurseries were shipping lots of plant material, mainly balled and burlapped plants and containers, to the east coast. Local greenhouses supplied retail outlets with spring plants. Spring plant sales by community groups were underway. Tulip festivals going on. Christmas tree planting winding down. Field-grown Easter lilies in Curry County were showing normal foliage development and were a few inches above the ground.

**Crop Progress - Week Ending 4/18/04**

	This week	Previous week	Last year	5 year average
Barley planted (%)	76	65	64	76
Barley emerged (%)	45	36	38	—
Spring Wheat planted (%)	87	68	84	86
Spring Wheat emerged (%)	58	33	49	—
Days suitable for fieldwork	5.4	7.0	—	—

**Soil Moisture - Week Ending 4/18/04**

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil (%)	4	25	65	6
Subsoil (%)	3	21	71	5

**Crop Condition - Week Ending 4/18/04**

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Winter Wheat (%)	1	4	28	55	12
Barley (%)	1	4	34	52	9
Range & Pasture (%)	2	7	34	49	8

**CLACKAMAS:** Cooler and damper conditions slowed the rapid growth. Some fertilizing of grain and hay crops. Apples at full bloom. Bartlett pear crop set. Strawberry bloom advancing. Caneberries growing normally. Early vegetable planting underway. Rhubarb harvest started. Nurseries repotting for further growth and shipping balled and burlapped plants and containers to many markets. Greenhouses are supplying a good volume of flowers and vegetable flats for home gardeners. Spring weather has allowed a good calving season. Livestock remain in very good condition. Pastures supplying good grazing conditions.

**COOS/CURRY:** Blueberry bloom continued. Many “Stevens” cranberry beds were in hook stage; growers were scouting fields for signs of blackheaded fireworm and Lophodermium twig blight. Field-grown Easter lilies in Curry County were showing normal foliage development a few inches above the ground. Pasture growth benefitted from frequent rain showers. Cool temperatures and significant precipitation this week. Average air temperatures at coastal AgriMet weather stations ranged from 49.5 to 49.6 deg F; highs ranged from 55.9 to 58.7 deg F, and lows ranged from 38.6 to 42.0 deg F. Precipitation ranged from 1.57 inches at Bandon to 1.89 inches at Brookings-Harbor. Growing degree days (base 50 deg F) ranged from 17 GDD at Brookings-Harbor to 21 GDD at Bandon.

**JACKSON:** Most grains doing well; lack of soil moisture will be serious without rain. Strawberries planted. Pears are growing well with season about 16 days ahead of average. Petal fall sprays are being applied. Fields being readied for corn, tomatoes and other late vegetables.

**JOSEPHINE:** Weather was typical for April with blustery winds at times, chilly morning temperatures with mild afternoons, and showers off and on. There was some measurable snow accumulation in the mountains and the cooler temperatures are keeping it there. Everything is in bloom - native and domestic trees, shrubs, perennials, bulbs. A lot of the early flowering bulbs were burnt off because of the extreme heat and drying conditions of the week before. Blueberries appear to have a bumper crop if the cold did not affect them this week. Apples, pears, plums and peaches are all in bloom. In some areas we did have frost but it was not a hard frost, occurring mostly in early morning and for a very short time. Truck gardeners have really gotten a jump start on soil preparation and planting.

**LANE/LINN/BENTON:** Mint and grass seed continue to grow. Grass seed fields are still being fertilized. Prunes are starting to size after bloom. Pears, cherries, and peaches look like a very large crop. Fertilization of many fruits is still in question. Apples in full bloom. Blueberry nearing end of bloom; blackberries and raspberries have nice growth. Vegetable crops going in ASAP. It has rained the last two days and rain is forecasted for the next three days, so it has put more planting on hold. Many growers were putting out irrigation pipes, now not needed quite as soon with the rain. Greenhouse and nursery crops are going full tilt. Prairie ground dried well, leading to excellent conditions to apply fertilizer. Good rains this week should lend to good fertilizer uptake. Crop yield prospects are looking up. Untimely frost would be very damaging; with enough rain it should be avoidable.

**MARION:** Showers late this week are a welcome change in the weather for most growers. Cooler temperatures should also slow the development of some of the early rust being seen in a few first year ryegrass fields. Reports of powdery mildew showing up in a few tall fescue fields. Mint fields beginning to make some growth; sugarbeet fields mostly looking good. Hop growers stringing hop yards. Rains were welcome throughout the week, maintaining soil moisture at the adequate level. Most, if not all, crops still appear to be doing well. Field crops are growing well and fruit crops are setting heavily. Had a quarter of an inch of rain this week.

**WASHINGTON:** Spring planted wheat and barley up and growing. Winter wheat in early boot stage. Alfalfa nearing early bud. Extraordinary growth for red clover. Some early blooms on strawberries; caneberries fully leafed. Grape vines leafing out; hazelnuts doing well. Rhubarb growing well and some have been seen in pies and sauce! Normal activities continue with some early irrigation applied. Dry and warm weather made early pasturing possible. Rains have returned and so have lower temperatures - over 2 inches of rain so far.

**YAMHILL:** Raining weather has prevented any spraying of tree fruits and nuts this week.

## EASTERN OREGON

**BAKER:** Grain planting, irrigation and field preparation underway. Some cooler weather and a little moisture are good, but we need rain for the grain, pasture and rangeland.

**CROOK/DESCHUTES/JEFFERSON:** Sun, rain, hail, wind, and snow last week. Some reports of mild crop damage due to hail showers. Irrigation season is underway.

**HARNEY:** Spring grains being seeded. Alfalfa being harrowed. Meadows dry. Cattle being turned out early; warming helped grass all week. Frost at night; occasional rain or hail showers. Calving season has been relatively warm and dry. Branding and turnout in full swing. Desert water holes in pretty good shape, considering how dry the spring has been so far.

**HOOD RIVER:** In the lower Hood River Valley, d'Anjou pear at post bloom (WSU stage 8); Red Delicious apple at full bloom (WSU stage 8); Bing cherry at post bloom (WSU stage 9); Pinot noir grapes at 2 to 3 unfolded leaves (Eichhorn-Lorenz stages 9). Mid-week rain resulted in the initiation of scab infection periods throughout most of the valley. Fire blight risk decreased throughout the week with cooler temperatures. Dry weather late in the week provided good opportunity for applying pear petal-fall sprays.

**KLAMATH:** The warm temperatures have been replaced with much cooler ones. Rain and scattered snow showers visited the Basin and remained during most of the week. The moisture was not severe enough to delay planting. Spring planting continues and irrigation season has begun.

**LAKE:** Cooler temperatures for most of the week. Received some precipitation in the form of snow and rain. Producers are starting to turn cattle out onto their allotments.

**MALHEUR:** Sugarbeets and onion planting done. Potato planting in full swing. Temperatures a little cooler than normal. Threatened showers did not materialize, except scattered in high elevations. Irrigation water in all the ditches. Spotty rain showers last week. It was not enough to stop fieldwork. Cooler temperatures have slowed water use down a little. There is still run-off water entering the irrigation reservoirs. All irrigation districts have begun filling their systems. Winter wheat is looking very good.

**MORROW:** We just had about 0.15 inches of rain last night and it was much needed. If we can get a rain like that or better, it will keep the forage coming.

**SHERMAN:** Fieldwork continues with spring seeding, spraying and initial tillage. More no-tillers seemed to have conducted at least one light tillage before seeding, mainly for thistle control. Three miles south of Moro received an inch of snow on Thursday, while south of Kent reported 5 to 6 inches. Fields look a little ratty. Some fields still have a light, yellow color and are VERY slow to kick into grow mode. Found Hessian fly adults this week but limited in number. Range grass starting to turn brown 4 to 6 weeks ahead of schedule, a good indicator of the continuing drought and warmer than average temperatures. Another inch of rain this month and a jump in wheat prices would sure help the attitude in the air. Nice week of showers. County averaged from 0.75 inches in the south to about 0.20 inches in the north. Spring work and spraying almost done. Winter wheat is filling in nicely, and the smaller wheat is catching up. Fall barley looks tough and some is being replanted to spring barley. Hope the showers continue for another six weeks!

**UMATILLA:** Some badly needed spring moisture has stopped all farming for a couple of days. Spring planted crops will benefit the most from the 0.5 to 1.0 inches of rain reported. Rains over the past week were welcome but still leave the area below average for rainfall in April.

**UNION:** Finally some spring moisture! Cold weather has delayed pasture growth. Ranchers are branding and starting to turn out. Spring field work continues. Most calving is completed but some late spring calves still being born. Some ranchers still feeding hay while others are relying more and more on spring grasses. Weather in Eastern Oregon continues to be unpredictable, with wild swings in temperature and climate.

**WALLOWA:** Some moisture received by the end of the week, but more is still needed. Temperatures have been cold enough that rangeland has not started to grow. Spring planting is ahead of schedule due to drier conditions.

**WASCO:** Weather has cooled some this last week. Early indications show a moderately heavy cherry crop. We will know more in the next couple of weeks. Cherry tree phenology is 7 to 10 days in advance of last year.

**WEATHER DATA FOR SELECTED STATIONS IN OREGON WEEK ENDING April 18, 2004 (as of 11:00 am)**

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS BASE-50F		LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIPITATION			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
<b>COASTAL AREAS</b>													
Astoria/Clatsop	37	57	49	1	1	-6	1.28	0.22	7	54.38	-2.69	95	151
Crescent City	41	56	49	-2	1	-20	2.36	1.35	4	50.91	-7.36	87	125
Florence	36	59	48	-2	3	-11	2.26	1.07	7	63.08	-3.39	95	145
North Bend	39	55	49	-1	1	-13	2.00	0.95	6	58.12	2.12	104	141
Tillamook	35	58	49	2	4	-3	2.32	0.96	7	70.48	-5.28	93	155
<b>WILLAMETTE VALLEY</b>													
Corvallis	37	64	50	2	8	-6	0.79	0.22	4	27.12	-10.22	73	108
Eugene	35	66	50	-1	7	-14	0.75	0.05	4	32.90	-10.36	76	121
Hillsboro	37	63	50	1	6	-9	0.99	0.52	4	26.95	-5.35	83	125
McMinnville	34	61	49	-2	3	-15	1.16	0.61	5	28.74	-9.54	75	124
Portland AP	43	64	53	3	24	3	0.55	-0.01	4	25.29	-4.98	84	120
Salem	37	63	50	1	6	-8	0.85	0.31	6	32.48	-1.37	96	129
<b>SW VALLEYS</b>													
Grants Pass	37	84	52	0	22	-11	0.52	0.12	5	25.81	-2.28	92	99
Medford	37	71	51	0	18	-10	0.34	0.06	4	17.32	1.19	107	97
Roseburg AP	38	66	50	-2	8	-20	0.46	-0.05	5	29.22	0.56	102	118
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>													
Condon	31	73	47	3	13	6	0.95	0.66	5	13.37	3.15	131	71
Heppner	35	75	50	3	16	1	1.17	0.89	5	10.30	0.25	102	95
Hermiston AP	35	77	52	1	19	-8	0.80	0.66	3	7.74	0.72	110	69
John Day	28	77	46	-1	12	-2	0.27	-0.01	5	7.20	-1.29	85	85
Moro	33	73	49	3	18	8	0.35	0.15	3	9.10	0.34	104	71
Pendleton AP	34	74	51	0	15	-7	0.78	0.55	4	9.82	0.64	107	75
The Dalles	38	73	54	7	27	13	0.31	0.12	3	11.86	1.64	116	87
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>													
Bend	30	77	46	3	12	5	0.37	0.23	4	10.30	1.52	117	65
Burns AP	23	76	43	0	3	-4	0.09	-0.05	1	6.73	-0.13	98	66
Klamath Falls	26	68	41	-4	1	-9	0.23	0.07	4	10.27	-0.50	95	84
Lakeview	21	66	41	-3	0	-7	0.16	-0.12	1	8.12	-3.58	69	49
Redmond	28	75	44	0	4	-3	0.41	0.29	3	7.11	1.20	120	66
<b>NORTHEAST</b>													
Baker City	22	76	44	-2	2	-5	0.08	-0.12	3	4.51	-1.87	71	66
Joseph	22	71	43	3	4	-3	0.23	-0.19	4	8.39	-10.09	45	85
La Grande AP	27	79	47	0	9	-5	0.46	0.14	4	7.76	-4.61	63	72
Union	27	77	47	2	12	-2	0.29	0.01	4	8.87	0.31	104	89
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>													
Ontario	30	76	52	1	16	-13	0.02	-0.12	1	6.21	-1.16	84	51
Rome	22	80	48	2	14	0	0.00	-0.14	0	3.76	-1.41	73	50

Summary based on National Weather Service data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Monday, September 1, 2003.

DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

Copyright 2004: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Janice A. Goodwin, State Statistician

Oregon Crop Weather 03-04  
Kevin Young, Math Statistician

FIRST CLASS MAIL  
POSTAGE & FEES PAID  
NATIONAL AG STATISTICS  
PERMIT NO. G-38

Oregon Agricultural  
Statistics Service  
1735 Federal Bldg., 1220 SW 3rd  
Portland, Oregon 97204